Small caterers and vendors

*6. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Catering Policy of 2005 has virtually removed small catering and vending contractors whose holding was confined to one stall and trolley at A, B, and C stations;

(b) if so, what are the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of catering and vending stalls were allotted to the big companies on all railway stations after removing the small vending contractors who were earning their livelihood through these stalls; and

(d) if so, whether the above action is not violating the constitutional right of small contractors?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) Does not arise.

Subsidized fertilizers to small tea growers

*7. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the scarcity of fertilizers for small tea growers in Assam;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to mitigate this problem;

(c) whether it is a fact that small tea growers have to buy fertilizers at higher prices despite Government's claim that fertilizers are supplied to farmers at subsidized rates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to ensure supply of subsidized fertilizers to small tea growers; and

(e) whether Government would ensure the allocation of sufficient quantity of fertilizers to small tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) The demand of tea growers in Assam in included in the overall requirement of Assam State and so are the supplies.

Urea is the only fertilizer under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level and the State governments are responsible for its distribution within the State.

However, the Department of Fertilizers monitors the availability of fertilizers up to district level. Availability of 95,490 MT of Urea during Kharif 2008 has been adequate enough to sustain its sales of about 90,320 MT.

All other fertilizer (Phosphatic and Potassic) *viz*., DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de—canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. State Government was requested from time and again to nominate States' Institutional agency/Marketing Federation to place orders for purchase/procurement of decontrolled fertilizers like DAP alongwith the payment for use by the farmers in the state at the time of need. The State Government of Assam has not been able to nominate States' Institutional Agency for procurement and distribution of the decontrolled fertilizers till date.

The availability of Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK during Kharif 2008 in Assam has been as under:

(Qty. in MT)

Fertilizer	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Urea	120,000	95,493.90	90,321.45
DAP	58,000	6,382.80	6,297.30
MOP	56,000	27,453.15	27,452.10

However, during the deliberations of the Fertilizers Advisory Forum meet held on 5th October, 2008, Department of Fertilizers advised M/s. IPL to arrange the supplies of DAP/MOP as per requirement to Assam during the month of October, 2008.

The availability of Urea, DAP and MOP during the month of October, 2008 (as on 16.10.2008) of the current Rabi 2008—09 in Assam has been as under.

(Qty. in MT)

Fertilizer	Requirement	Availability	Sales
Urea	10,800	11,500	1,180
DAP	4,500	2,500	00
MOP	4,500	2,750	00

Supply of fertilizers to Madhya Pradesh

†*8. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the supply made against the demand of 6.25 lakh tonnes of Urea, 5 lakh tonnes of D.A.P., 3 lakh tonnes of complex of N.P., 0.70 lakh tonnes of M.O.P., 3.75 lakh tonnes of Super Phosphate and 0.010 lakh tonnes of other fertilizers for Kharif 2008 of Madhya Pradesh till date; and

(b) the shortfalls in the supply, if any, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.